

How does a town register a building as an historic place?

Designation of a municipal building or site on the State and/or National Registers of Historic Places can bring recognition, tourism dollars, matching grants, and a sense of pride to a community. The State Register of Historic Places includes buildings and sites of historic, architectural, or engineering significance. The National Register of Historic Place includes buildings and sites associated with significant historical events or the lives of significant historical figures, or that embody a distinctive architectural or artistic quality.

Cemeteries, birthplaces, graves, religious institutions, reconstructed historic buildings, properties that have only achieved significance in the past 50 years, and others will ordinarily not be considered eligible for placement on the National Register unless they are integral parts of the overall district or fall within other categories.

Towns can request that property be placed on the State Register by writing a letter to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation containing the following: the street address and a town map showing the exact location of the property; information concerning the history of the site or building or including any remodeling; and pictures of the building's exterior, outbuildings, landscaping, and any important interior features (slides are preferred, but not required).

At its monthly meeting, the State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation studies the request to determine if the property meets all applicable criteria. If the Division includes the property on the Register, it will then move forward to include the property in the Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey (which is the official listing of all sites of historic, architectural, and engineering significance in the State).

Towns can request that property be placed on the National Register by following the same process as above. If the Advisory Council decides that the property is eligible for the National Register then the town would need to hire a qualified architectural historian to prepare the National Register nomination form. This form is then reviewed by the Division and forwarded to the Advisory Council, along with any comments, for final review. If approved, the Advisory Council submits the nomination form to the National Register branch of the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. for review and to be added to the official National Register.

Towns interested in placing a site on either the State Register of Historic Places, the National Register of Historic Places, or both should contact Suzanne Jamele, National Register Specialist, at (802) 828- 046.

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